



**Ray Of Hope
Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."
(Isaiah 56:7)**

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Fortieth year of Ministry.

**MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,
and make disciples of every person
everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)**

"It is time to put our faith into action."

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26)

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

We extend a special welcome to our visitors. You
are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed
you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We are building
a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in
our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is October 15, 2023, Year A

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins,
a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal
and Unif<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com>/ied. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Genesis 17;1-22 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 13

Psalm: 80 with selected verses and a response.

Second Reading: Revelation, chapter 3, verses 14 - 22 NRSV
2nd Test. Pg. 247

Gospel: Mark 13:1- 27 NRSV 2ND Testament page 50

***We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The
NRSV Bible, 1st Testament numbers, are in the front, and the 2nd Testament numbers
are in the back of the book. If this confuses you, ask someone around you to assist you.
Thank you.**



CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our Salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of ___ in the State of _____. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. You can participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

To be added to our email list, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject.

Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the

hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Good morning, and welcome. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us later in this worship event. Membership in this or any church is not required. We celebrate the Lord's open table. **Please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.**

Leader-1: Today's bulletin order of worship and the music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. At our website, look in the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly. This morning, Ed Askins will play a prelude, "**As The Deer**" Words and Music by Martin Nystrom We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and refrain from visiting. Thank you.

Prelude played by Ed Askins on the piano. "As The Deer" Words and Music Martin Nystrom ©1984 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI Song # 1431 For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

(The Congregation amended this By-law on September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))



Bell's 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.

Leader – 2: Thank you for spending time with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

ALL: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." (NABRE)

Leader -1: You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

ALL: We meet in the name of God our Creator, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and in the name of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Pastor: Jesus promised to be with the Church to the end of the age. We joyfully give God thanks and praise.

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord.

Pastor: We come here to pray. The definition of the word liturgy is the "prayer-

work" of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship and experience God and one another. The people are actively praying and serving those present and God.



Ray Of Hope Church officially began on 10/31/1983.

Today is October 15, 2023, the twenty-first week of Pentecost, the Fifty-first Sunday in our 40th year of ministry.

Pastor: With our whole heart, mind, and soul, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG: Turn To Me. Words and Music John B. Foley, S.J.

Text: Based on Isaiah 45:22–23; 51:12, 4, 6. Text and music © 1975, John B. Foley, S.J. and OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Second Edition #342. Onelicense Song #81205 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Jesus

said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)

Leader -2: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty years later, some churches, religions, and even countries still reject the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Therefore, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Scroll to the next page to see the panel names on Block # 94.



NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Block # 94

- Mitchell Toney (1)
- SF Kid (2)
- Marshall Smith (3)

- Robert Burger (4)
- Donald Richard Saglin (5)
- James Moore (6)
- Andy C. Marks (7)
- Ray Rile (8)

(source: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, remember the names of family and friends who have died from **COVID-related illness** and other causes of death. Pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.***) We hope this candle's flame will bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(NAMES Project National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

SECOND SONG: You Are Near Words and Music: Dan Schutte. Text based on Psalm 139. Text and music © 1971, OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Second Edition #619. Onlicense Song # 80528. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) So far, we assembled, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides

another service: Christ forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Leader – 3: Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses eight and nine: "8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, Jesus, who is present, faithful, and just, will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, consider our relationships with God and others. Then, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who will forgive us immediately.

(silent prayer)

Leader -2: We pray together:

ALL: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended anyone, and God, in any way. **Therefore**, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader -4: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

Division among people everywhere produces violence and war; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: Some people do not respect God's unlimited gifts to the human community; we pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: We could promote the unifying mission of the Church and the

Gospel with more convincing enthusiasm; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, grant us peace.

Pastor: We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

Leader -4: Through confession and forgiveness, we have prepared our hearts to accept the renewal God offers when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together.

Pastor: Please rise as you are able, and we pray.

Spoken:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on Earth.
You are the One God, Sovereign of the Universe,**

**Only Holy God, we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the World:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of God:
receive our prayer.**

For you alone are the Holy One,

**you alone are the Lord of all,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: Eternal Word of God, help us to hear your Holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader 5: Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

ALL: We read God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

Reader: ** If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The reading is in the book of Genesis, chapter 17, verses 1 through 27, in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 13 in the First Testament. Here begins the reading.

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty;^[a] walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³ Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram,^[b] but your name shall be Abraham,^[c] for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you

exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding, and I will be their God."

⁹ God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. ¹³ Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money must be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live in your sight!" ¹⁹ God said, "No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac.^[d] I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. ²¹ But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year." ²² And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

²³ Then Abraham took his son Ishmael and all the slaves born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. ²⁴ Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁵ And his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. ²⁶ That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised, ²⁷ and all the men of his house, slaves born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

- a. [17.1](#) Traditional rendering of Heb *El Shaddai*
- b. [17.5](#) That is, *exalted ancestor*
- c. [17.5](#) That is, *ancestor of a multitude*
- d. [17.19](#) That is, *he laughs*

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+17%3A1-27&version=NRSVUE> . Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ Psalm: **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is ____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of ____.

The Psalm is number 80, selected verses. The response is: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

R: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

You transplanted us like a vine brought out of Egypt.

You cleared away the nations and planted us.

The vine put forth its foliage to the Sea,
and its shoots as far as the Great River.

R: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

Oh Lord, our God, look down from heaven and see;

Take care of your vine,

Lord, protect what has been planted by your right hand.

R: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

We promise to stay near to you.

Give us a new start in life, and we will call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord, restore us;

let your face shine upon us,

and we shall be saved.

R: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

** Inclusive language and prose added by Br. Benedict, based on multiple translations.

+ Second Reading

Reader: **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The second reading is in Revelation, chapter 3, verses 14 - 23 in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 247 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin^[a] of God's creation:

¹⁵ "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ Therefore I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white robes to clothe yourself and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you

hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me. ²¹ To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

a. [3.14](#) Or beginning

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+3%3A14-23&version=NRSVUE>

Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reader: We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

Opening Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ at Ray Of Hope Church "Music for Worship" Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the

6 truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your

11 Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al - le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our

16 hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

Reader: The Gospel reading is Mark, chapter 13:1-27 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 50 in the Second Testament.

Reader: Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be
in our (+) minds that we will understand it,
on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and
in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

13 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" ² Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' ^[a] and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Persecution Foretold

⁹ "As for yourselves, beware, for they will hand you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will

stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. ¹⁰ And the good news^[b] must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹ When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak but the Holy Spirit. ¹² Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ¹³ and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

The Desolating Sacrilege

¹⁴ "But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; ¹⁵ the one on the housetop must not go down or enter to take anything from the house; ¹⁶ the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat. ¹⁷ Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! ¹⁸ Pray that it may not be in winter. ¹⁹ For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now and never will be. ²⁰ And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved, but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days. ²¹ And if anyone says to you at that time, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' ^[c] or 'Look! There he is!'—do not believe it. ²² False messiahs^[d] and false prophets will appear and produce signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³ But be alert; I have already told you everything.

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁴ "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels and gather the^[e] elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [13.6](#) Gk *I am*
- b. [13.10](#) Gk *gospel*
- c. [13.21](#) Or *the Christ*
- d. [13.22](#) Or *christs*
- e. [13.27](#) Other ancient authorities read *his*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+13%3A1-27&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

Closing Gospel Acclamation

10-15-23 Updated Israel War 2nd Sunday. Year A Page 18 of 44
Forever, We Are Yours!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church
for the 1996 New Year,
The Year of The Holy Spirit!

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sds the
Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!
You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our
joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!
For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

 **Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.** 
The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10

1) I will address the war between Hamas and Israel that started on October 7 in the following outline of the sermon:
a) list some of the outstanding errors the Christian Church and Tradition made over the centuries and point out we regularly name and study those errors. We are self-aware of the errors of the Church, and by studying those errors, we aim to prevent repeating such errors. Here is an incomplete list of some of the errors of the Christian Church in the record.

- Removal of women from leadership in ministry. Failing to accept the Holy Spirit has been given to everyone.
- Entangling with the Roman Empire as a way to gain political power in the world. This would be the first of many times the churches would combine with political powers.
- Replacement Theology, also known as Supersessionism: the Christian Church supersedes and replaces Israel.
- Persecution of the Jewish People, even conducting ghettos, and even executing people who refused to convert from Judaism to become Christian.
- Enslavement of any people anywhere, often caused by false teaching on the sons of Noah, the table of the Nations.
- Favoring ethnic groups over others.
- Control over the teaching ministry, control over the formation and translation of the Scriptures.
- Many errors in Teachings including sexuality, gender, divorce, and more.

Assigning to male leadership the same weight of authority as the inspiration of the Scriptures.

Twelve million Africans were forcibly brought to North and South America for enslavement. The people taken from Africa represented about fifty ethnic and linguistic groups. Approximately 1500 – 18 60's (source: <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/history/on-african-american-migrations/>)

The many errors of the Church include a long history of killing people who held different ideas in Theology, even Pope John Paul, I was murdered for his ideas.

=====

1) Covenant is with Isaac, the father of Jacob, who is Israel. Ishmael is the older brother of Hagar. God said the son would be born of Sari, not Hagar.

2) Isaac has two sons: Esau and Jacob. Esau and Jacob were very different personalities. Jacob receives the covenant blessing from Isaac. Name change Genesis 32:28 ²⁸ Then the man^[a] said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,^[b] for you have striven with God and with humans^[c] and have prevailed." (NRSVUE) Genesis 35:9-12 ⁹ God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and he blessed him. ¹⁰ God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall you be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he was called Israel. ¹¹ God said to him, "I am God Almighty:^[a] be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. ¹² The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you."

Jacob lived approximately 1652 – 1505 BCE (Quora <https://www.quora.com/When-did-the-patriarch-Jacob-live>)

Jesus did not question the authorship of Moses.
Jesus did not question the historicity of Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob/Israel.
Jesus did not question the twelve patriarchs of Israel (12 sons of Israel).
Jesus did not question Jacob having FOUR wives for the 12 sons of Israel and one daughter Mothers: Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah.

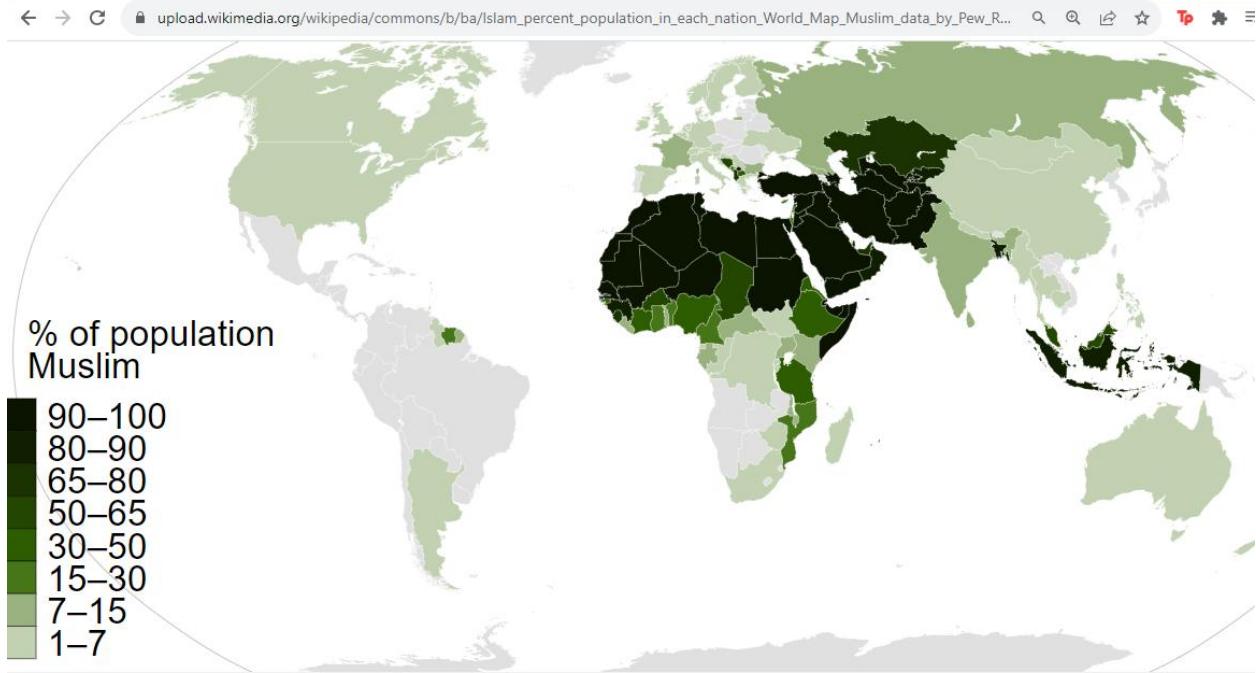
Prophet Muhammad writes the Qur'an in Western Arabian Towns of Mecca and Medina "According to conventional Islamic belief, the Qur'ān was revealed by the angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad in the West Arabian towns Mecca and Medina beginning in 610 and ending with Muhammad's death in 632 ce."

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Quran>

=====

(Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/ba/Islam_percent_population_in_each_nation_World_Map_Musli)

m data by Pew Research.svg)



=====

c) name the current entities involved in this war and briefly summarize their origin and purpose. There are obvious errors in some of their Doctrines, Dogmas, Teachings, and Practices. Understanding the foundational errors will help us understand the current conflict. (hyperlinks will be provided for each entity for further study.)

The Fatah movement dominates the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority administers semi-autonomous areas of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Hamas has ruled the Gaza Strip since 2007. Founded in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who established the Hamas military wing and carried out its first suicide bombing in 1993. Hamas is the Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement. The group is rooted in the Sunni group, The Muslim Brotherhood, founded in the 1920's in Egypt. Hamas has a singular goal, the annihilation of Israel. The U. S. State Department designated Hamas a terrorist group since 1997. Israeli forces killed Yassin in 2004. (source for this material: <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/10/1204826544/hamas-israel-war-gaza-palestinian>)

=====

Palestinian National Covenant (Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_National_Covenant#:~:text=The%20Palestinian%20National%20Covenant%20or,early%20days%20of%20the%20PLO .)

The **Palestinian National Covenant** or **Palestinian National Charter** (*Arabic*: الميثاق الوطني الفلسطيني; *transliterated*: *al-Mithaq al-Watani al-Filastini*) is the covenant or charter of the Palestine Liberation

[Organization](#) (PLO). The Covenant is an ideological paper, written in the early days of the PLO.

The first version was adopted on 28 May 1964. In 1968 it was replaced by a comprehensively revised version.^[1] In April 1996, many articles, which were inconsistent with the [Oslo Accords](#), were wholly or partially nullified.^{[2][3]}

Israel has always strongly objected to the Charter, which describes the establishment of the state of Israel as "entirely illegal" (Art. 19), considers Palestine, with its original Mandate borders, as the indivisible homeland of the Arab Palestinian people (1–2), **urges the elimination of Zionism in Palestine** (Art. 15), and strongly urges the "liberation" of Palestine.

On 14 December 1988, following an outcry from his 13 December General Assembly speech, [Yasser Arafat](#) called a press conference in Geneva to clarify his earlier statement by specifically mentioning the right of all parties concerned in the Middle East conflict to exist in peace and security, including the State of Palestine, Israel, and their neighbours. He also renounced terrorism.^[7]

=====

Hamas Covenant Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamas_Charter

Hamas Charter



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from [Hamas Covenant](#))

The **Hamas Covenant** or **Hamas Charter**, formally known in English as the **Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement**, was originally issued on 18 August 1988 and outlines the founding identity, stand, and aims of [Hamas](#) (the Islamic Resistance Movement).[ⓘ] A new charter was issued by Hamas leader [Khaled Mashal](#) on 1 May 2017 in [Doha](#).[ⓘ]

The original Charter identified Hamas as the [Muslim Brotherhood](#) in Palestine and declares its members to be [Muslims](#) who "fear [God](#) and raise the banner of [Jihad](#) in the face of the oppressors." The charter states that "our struggle against the Jews is very great and very serious" and calls for the eventual creation of an [Islamic state](#) in Palestine, in place of [Israel](#) and the [Palestinian Territories](#),[ⓘ] and the obliteration or dissolution of Israel.[ⓘ] It emphasizes the importance of jihad, stating in article 13, "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors."[ⓘ] The charter also states that Hamas is humanistic, and tolerant of

other religions as long as they "stop disputing the sovereignty of Islam in this region".² The Charter adds that "renouncing any part of Palestine means renouncing part of the religion [of Islam]".³ The original charter was criticized for its violent language against all Jews, which some commentators characterized as [incitement to genocide](#).¹⁰⁰

Statements about Israel

The Preamble to the 1988 Charter stated: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam invalidates it, just as it invalidated others before it".

Antisemitism

Ideology

According to [Abraham Foxman](#) of the [Anti-Defamation League](#), "The Hamas credo is not just anti-Israel, but profoundly [anti-Semitic](#) with racism at its core. The Hamas Charter reads like a modern-day *Mein Kampf*." According to the charter, Jewish people "have only negative traits and are presented as planning to take over the world."^[36] The 1988 Charter claimed that the Jews deserved God's/Allah's enmity and wrath because they received the Scriptures but violated its sacred texts, disbelieved the signs of Allah, and slew their own prophets.^[36] It quotes a saying of Muhammad from a [hadith](#):

The Day of Judgment will not come until Muslims fight the Jews, when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say, 'O Muslim, O servant of God, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.' Only the Gharkad tree would not do that, because it is one of the trees of the Jews.

— *Related by [al-Bukhari](#) and [Muslim](#).*^[1]

Multiple commentators, including [Jeffrey Goldberg](#) and [Philip Gourevitch](#), have identified this passage as [incitement to genocide](#).^{[8][9]}

Militant Jihad

The 1988 Charter went further in detailing how Jihad against the Jews was a duty. "The day that enemies usurp part of Moslem land, Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Moslem. In face of the Jews' usurpation of Palestine, it is compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised. To do this requires the diffusion of Islamic

consciousness among the masses, both on the regional, Arab and Islamic levels. It is necessary to instill the spirit of Jihad in the heart of the nation so that they would confront the enemies and join the ranks of the fighters."^[1]

Antisemitic canards

The 1988 charter contained references to [antisemitic canards](#), such as the assertion that through shrewd manipulation of imperial countries and secret societies, Jews were behind a wide range of events and disasters going as far back in history as the [French Revolution](#).

With their money, they took control of the world media, news agencies, the press, publishing houses, broadcasting stations, and others. With their money they stirred revolutions in various parts of the world with the purpose of achieving their interests and reaping the fruit therein. They were behind the French Revolution, the Communist revolution and most of the revolutions we heard and hear about, here and there. With their money, they formed secret societies, such as Freemason, Rotary Clubs, the Lions and others in different parts of the world for the purpose of sabotaging societies and achieving Zionist interests. With their money they were able to control imperialistic countries and instigate them to colonize many countries in order to enable them to exploit their resources and spread corruption there.^[1]

It continued by accusing the Jews of engineering World War I as a pretext to [abolish the Caliphate](#), create the [League of Nations](#), and influence the [British government](#) into drafting the [Balfour Declaration](#).^[1] It echoed [Nazi propaganda](#) in claiming that Jews profited during [World War II](#).^[37]

Equivalence of anti-Zionism and antisemitism

Historian [Jeffrey Herf](#) argued that unlike the PLO, which has distinguished their national [struggle against Zionism](#) from general antisemitism (rhetorically, at least), Hamas, in their 1988 covenant, purposefully fused these two struggles into one against the Jews and their country.^[37]

In contrast, the 2017 covenant denies the connection in its only direct mention of Jews:

Hamas affirms that its conflict is with the Zionist project not with the Jews because of their religion. Hamas does not wage a struggle against the Jews because they are Jewish but wages a struggle against the Zionists who occupy Palestine. Yet, it is the Zionists who constantly identify Judaism and the Jews with their own colonial project and illegal entity.

Hamas rejects the persecution of any human being or the undermining of his or her rights on nationalist, religious or sectarian grounds. Hamas is of the view that the Jewish problem, anti-Semitism and the persecution of the Jews are phenomena fundamentally linked to European history and not to the history of the Arabs and the Muslims or to their heritage.^{[38][39]}

=====

IRAN from Wikipedia

Iran,^[a] also known as **Persia**^{[b][11]} and officially as the **Islamic Republic of Iran**,^[c] is a country in [West Asia](#). It is bordered by [Iraq](#) and [Turkey](#) to the west, [Azerbaijan](#) and [Armenia](#) to the northwest, the [Caspian Sea](#) and [Turkmenistan](#) to the north, [Afghanistan](#) and [Pakistan](#) to the east, and the [Gulf of Oman](#) and the [Persian Gulf](#) to the south. It covers an area of 1.64 million square kilometers (0.63 million square miles), making it the [17th-largest country](#). With an estimated population of 86.8 million, Iran is the [17th-most populous country](#), and being the second largest nation in the [Middle East](#). Its capital and largest city is [Tehran](#).

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations, beginning with the formation of the [Elamite](#) kingdoms in the fourth millennium BC

=====

IRAQ

"The constitution establishes Islam as the official religion and states that no law may be enacted contradicting the "established provisions of Islam." (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-report-on-international-religious-freedom/iraq/#:~:text=The%20constitution%20establishes%20Islam%20as,but%20it%20does%20not%20explicitly>)

Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq>

Iraq,^[a] officially the **Republic of Iraq**,^[b] is a country in the [Middle East](#). It is

a federal parliamentary republic that consists of 19 governorates. The country is bordered by Turkey to the north, Iran to the east, the Persian Gulf and Kuwait to the southeast, Saudi Arabia to the south, Jordan to the southwest and Syria to the west. The capital and largest city is Baghdad. The Iraqi people are diverse, with similarly diverse geography and wildlife. Most Iraqis are Muslims – minority faiths include Christianity, Yazidism, Mandaism, Yarsanism and Zoroastrianism.^{[8][21]} The official languages of Iraq are Arabic and Kurdish; others also recognised in specific regions are Turkish (Turkmen), Suret (Assyrian), and Armenian.^[9] Iraq is the 33rd most-populous country in the world.

=====

<https://www.abrahamicfamilyhouse.ae/>

IMAGES

https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=573602636&rlz=1C1PRFI_enUS758US777&sxsrf=AM9HkKltvoth9gejq3oK4gWJtLhcGv9cog:1697377176924&q=abrahamic+family+house+in+abu+dhabi&tbm=isch&source=univ&fir=WKkcjqO1ohZEhM%252CU_pPznmNfDIYiM%252C_%253BQW3buUEy6-8xCM%252CgiH2UchCCoS3pM%252C_%253BvdqQ72dXvFV3NM%252Cqy6yne3jdJaBxM%252C_%253B-pMuN5W6lu9i8M%252CICZ-jgcQU2i_0M%252C_%253B57p1amvyfHWEVM%252CQK-MTAEJteV5DM%252C_&usq=AI4_-kSfva8l4K_gDcDT07s7SRqsJlyEbQ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjbs7jdlviBAxXYmIkEHdgfCyMQiR56BAhZEAI&biw=1177&bih=605&dpr=0.8

Abrahamic Family House

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abrahamic Family House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abrahamic_Family_House))

Document on Human Fraternity

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Document on Human Fraternity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Document_on_Human_Fraternity)

=====

d) "I call on the leaders of all three Abrahamic

Religions to summon all parties involved in this war to put humanitarian preservation above all religious Doctrine, Dogma, Teaching, and Practices that some are using to justify war." (Rev. Br. Shawn Francis Benedict, Pastor. Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. October 15, 2023.)

=====
*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****
=====

+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 3: Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit with communal and shared prayers. Our response after each prayer will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: Violence and Crime are in the news daily, and now we add the war between Hamas and Israel. We pray for increased respect for the lives of others, empathy, awareness, and care among all people; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: The war in Ukraine continues past the 568thday. We continue to pray that World Leaders work together to end the war in Ukraine and roughly thirty-three additional Countries; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

See this website for more information: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at-war>

Leader – 2: We continue praying for people we know who need healing

and support, including Gillie, Cheryl, April, Henrietta, Trudy, Gilbert, Jacob, Ed's Sister, and all who have asked for our prayers; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it/>)

Leader – 2: As the Earth suffers the effects of climate change, we pray for people who have lost their shelter, jobs, friends, and family in these recent natural disasters. We pray that world leaders will recognize and respond to this environmental emergency with compassion and plans for change; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: At this time, everyone may add silent prayers for yourself or others, prayers of thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. If you share a prayer aloud, please speak loud enough so everyone can hear you. We begin with _____

Leader: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen



(Visit our moving prayers page [Right Click Here.](#))


+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.

Leader: At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the World, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Every organization has actual expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, insurance,

taxes, and so on. In the United States, each Church is a private organization and does not receive public funding. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants by keeping it financially viable.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. Anyone



may use the QRCode  or press control + click or tap on this link: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#) in the bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. People in the Chapel may use the envelopes and the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event.

Finally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

At this time, we also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Internet viewers, please turn to page three and follow the instructions highlighted in yellow under leader two.

We still use individual communion kits in the Chapel as part of our COVID safety protocol.

Everyone may help set the Chapel Communion Table, and you may walk to the donation box during this time.

(** Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. ** Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local Church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual

worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday,
December 13, 2020.*))

OFFERTORY SONG: "I Worship You Almighty God" Words and Music by Sondra Corbett. ©1983 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music). CCLI Song # 20807 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Leader -2: (* **Improvise a prayer for the offerings received, giving thanks and praise.***) (When your prayer is complete, please say:) " Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology."

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Leader: Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two prayers. Viewers at home pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, and fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made.

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-

57), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

Pastor: Truly present and risen among us; the Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and just....

May our voices be one with all the fabulous Faithful from every time and place as we sing our song and join their unending praise hymns.

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Leader: At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus

Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual wellbeing. We ask this in the Name of Jesus.**

Amen

Leader: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

(SONG: REMEMBER ME. Words and Music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin J. Nystrom © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. c/o Integrity Music, Inc., P.O. Box 16813, Mobile, AL, 36695. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. CCLI Song # 451177 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.)



The Reception of Holy Communion

Pastor: Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The Gift of God for the People of God....

Pastor: I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Pastor: Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together...

Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

+ The Lord's Prayer

Leader -4: Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together, we pray:

ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to You. Al - migh - ty

5
God world with - out end. A men! Al - le - lu - ia

11
A men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All rights reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

+ Sign Of Peace

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. **During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Leader: Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins

and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion: Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

This prayer is known as the Fatima Prayer. It is prayed thousands of times every day by people praying the Rosary. Looking closely, one can see it is a very gracious prayer that prays for the Salvation of all people. Read more of my commentary on this prayer: [Click Here](#).

General Offering for the week of September 17 \$468.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of September 24 \$1068.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 11

General Offering for the week of October 1 \$218.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

General Offering for the week of October 8 \$688.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 11

****Special Gifts recently given.****

April Struhm donated \$100.00 toward our new annual Internet costs.

Lisa Frost donated altar wine for Holy Communion in thanksgiving for the life of Rodney Brewer. Thank you Lisa.

We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

Copyright Information

"Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.

Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002."

New Revised Standard Version – 1989

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Up to 500 verses of the R.S.V. or NRSV may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio) without charge and without obtaining written permission...

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

**** See the Q.R. Code on last page. ****

Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 - 8:00 .m. Bible Enrichment. Sacraments, Ordinances, and Rituals part 4.

Friday, October 20, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Skype and in person.

Sunday, October 22, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, October 24, 6:30 - 8:00 .m. Bible Enrichment. Sacraments, Ordinances, and Rituals part 5.

Thursday, October 26th, 6 p.m., Candidate Forum, EOP building, Elmira. Presented by the NAACP Elmira Chapter.

October 29, Sunday, celebration of our 40th Anniversary. Feast of All Saints. Sacrament of Anointing for Healing and Confirmation of our Faith. Refreshments following worship.

Tuesday, October 31, 6:30 - 8:00 .m. Bible Enrichment. Sacraments, Ordinances, and Rituals part 6.

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 Noon Traditional Mass in English – Feast of All Saints. This will be a 45 minute worship event; in person only.

Sunday, 11/19 at TBD pm. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service, presented by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition.

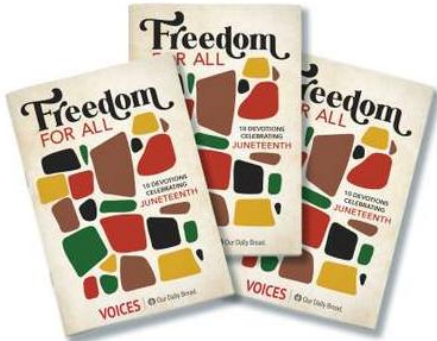
November 26, Advent, week 1 (backed up one week) - World Peace Sunday

December 3, Advent, week 2 – Hope, World AIDS DAY Celebration

December 10, GAUDETE SUNDAY – GAUDETE PARTY – Joy, Pride Sunday in the Winter

December 17, Advent, week 4 – Love, Holy Women and Mother's Day in the Winter

December 24, Sunday, 10:30 A.M. NATIVITY – Celebration of the Birth of Jesus.



https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1?utm_source=reading-plan&utm_medium=unbounce&utm_campaign=juneteenth-23

June 1, 2023, was the TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.



<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> In celebration, we launched the new mobile-friendly version of our website.

This online presentation is covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A- 741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152

NOTE: Whitney Tipton recommended the 2016 Documentary "13th" which may be found on Netflix. The caption reads; "In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U. S. prison boom. I have watched it and found it to be very informative and I recommend it as well. Thank you, Whitney.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!
ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (a prayer is said) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

ALL: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen (Romans 15:13)

Leader-4: We go forth in peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.

Last Song: Jesus In The Morning Traditional Spiritual Glory and Praise Second Edition #590. Onelicense Song #83429 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

POSTLUDE: Organ How Great Thou Art.

BROTHER: All of our freedom of Scientific inquiry, social studies, psychological research, Biblical research, and laws came to us by voting. All of it can be overturned by vote; that is how a democracy works.

Religion is invoked in the presentations of the rationale for reversing rights gained in social, educational, healthcare, and even religious settings. The only way to protect what we have is to stay informed and involved in the process. (Br. Benedict 8-5-23)

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

We have to EDUCATE and ACTIVATE the young adult LGBTQSINAE2ss+ Electorate! This is an Electorate Emergency. This is not a drill! (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

=====

Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

*** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.
We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.
We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or
RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.
We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.
WE ARE YOU!
THIS is the Church where YOU belong.
Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

=====Who can receive the Holy Spirit=====

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.
Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)

=====

WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?

Everyone may receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

You are not required to be a member of this Church or any other church to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it, or right after so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries, many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my body. This is my blood," and we rehear Christ present with us saying: "Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink" of this gift.

After extensive consideration, I take these words, "Take this, all of you.." as a command to the Church to give and bring the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to educate people about this gift. I have said **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord's Table is central to that life.

The Eucharist belongs to the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is

Christ in, through, with us, and made known in breaking the Bread of Life and drinking the Cup of Salvation. We are to take this gift to the whole World.

We begin by inviting those on the fringe of Society, those pushed aside, poor, not accepted, sick, and who need God's help in extraordinary ways.

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to everyone told "no, you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes, you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or, as we like to say as one of our mottos when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien, "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018, by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21, revised 3-3-2023)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here](#).

See this in a PDF format from our website, share it with others, or download it to your computer/device. [Right Click Here](#).

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 a.m.
Syracuse Worship- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information
[Click Here](#).

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30–8 p.m.-380 W. First St. Parsonage
/Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign
on by 6:15 p.m. [Click Here](#).

**** to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374***

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our website;

http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

NOTE: On June 15, 1996, as a part of the Ordination Ceremony and his profession of Benedictine Vows, Rev. Leo W. McDermott, II retired the use of his secular birth name and was given a new name in religion, Brother Shawn Francis Benedict.

The Chapel is not open to the general public as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

Visitors: Please feel free to fill out the information slip below and place it in the collection plate. Please indicate any special needs you may have. All information will be used for church purposes *only*.

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to be included on the church Email list.

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- **guide** and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends,
- **declare** and openly assert the truth that same-sex relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered Love, are holy and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and, that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy Unions and Marriages to bring God's own Love and good news of "Salvation to all who believe" into the World,
- **uphold**, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- **change** the World around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- **proclaim** the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and peace for all God's People and the universe.

Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Mobile-Friendly website version: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#). Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

—————Scripture verses to share with others:—————

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 2:11, 3:4 The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing Salvation **to everyone**.

John 5:24 Those who hear my Word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks. "Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

